

OPERATION: AGAPE

JULY 28, 2019

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

TEXT: LOVE GOD; LOVE OTHERS – MATTHEW 22: 34-40

PASTOR'S NOTES: ERIC NAPOLI

Opening: THE COMPLEXITY OF LIFE AND THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL.

*IN ALL THE COMPLEXITY OF THIS LIFE, LOVE MUST EXIST BEYOND THE POLITICAL REALM.
LOVE BEGINS ITS EXISTENCE IN THE KINGDOM REALM.*

BIG IDEA: THE CLOSER WE ARE TO THE HEART OF GOD...

...THE MORE GENUINELY AND ACTIVELY WE LOVE THE BROKEN PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN MATTHEW 22: 34-40:

- HOW HUMANITY TRIES TO COMPLICATE THE GOSPEL
- HOW CHRIST, WITHOUT PAUSE, SIMPLIFIES GOSPEL
- HOW COMPLETELY CONNECTED THE ENTIRETY OF SCRIPTURE IS TO THE SIMPLE, HARD GOSPEL OF JESUS.

LOVE GOD – v. 37; EX. 20 AGAPAO – * TO BE CONTENTED OR WELL-PLEASD

1. HEART = KARDIA – THE CENTER AND SEAT OF SPIRITUAL LIFE
2. SOUL = PSYCHE – THE BREATH OF LIFE
- THE SEAT OF FEELINGS, DESIRES, AFFECTIONS
3. MIND = DIANOIA - THE SEAT OF UNDERSTANDING

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF

SEE THEIR BROKENNESS AND RUN TO IT WITH THE HOPE OF JESUS

THE CLOSER WE ARE TO THE HEART OF GOD, THAT IS, THE MORE CONTENTED WE ARE WITH HIS HEART, THOUGHTS AND WAYS...

THE MORE LIKE CHRIST WE BECOME IN OUR ACTIONS AND REACTIONS TO OUR NEIGHBOR'S BROKENNESS AND NEED.

GOSPEL POINT: LOVE COUNTERS HATE IN THE SAME WAY THE CROSS COUNTERS MY SIN. IT IS SELFLESS, SACRIFICIAL AND DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO OUR HUMAN MINDEDNESS

THE DEEP SPOT: IN A WORLD THAT HAS SET GODLINESS AND AGAPE LOVE ASIDE AS A JOKE, WE THE CHURCH MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE GODLINESS AND ACTIVE LOVE AN AFTER-THOUGHT TO OUR PATRIOTISM, OUR COMFORT, OUR POLITICAL PROWESS OR EVEN OUR OWN SECURITY.

Challenge to the Church:

HOW CONTENTED OR WELL- PLEASED HAS MY HEART, SOUL AND MIND BEEN WITH JESUS?

IN MY DEEPENING CONTENTMENT WITH CHRIST, HOW HAS MY LOVE BEEN EXPRESSED TO MY NEIGHBOR'S BROKENNESS AND NEED?

YOUR NOTES: